

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

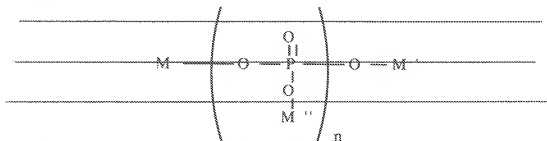
1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treating dental erosion comprising:

(a) a physician or dental professional directing a human, in need thereof due to loss or softening of tooth enamel and its demineralization caused by direct action of acid on the tooth, to orally administer an effective amount of a beverage composition comprising citric acid and having a pH from about 2 to about 4.5 at least once daily for the purpose of treating dental erosion;

(b) the human ingests the beverage composition based on such direction for the purpose of treating said dental erosion;

wherein the beverage composition comprises sodium hexametaphosphate ~~a compound having the structure:~~



wherein  $n$  is an integer averaging from about 7 to about 100 and  $M$ ,  $M'$ , and  $M''$  are each, independently, selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium, and wherein the beverage composition is substantially free of calcium and fluoride.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the beverage composition further comprises a sweetener.

26 - 27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the beverage composition has a pH from about 2.7 to about 3.5.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 25 wherein the beverage composition comprises from about 0.1% to about 20% of the sweetener, by weight of the composition.

31. (Cancelled)